(d) and (e). The funds released by the Central Government in this regard are based on the sanctioned amounts.

National Barrage Projects

1244. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria laid down for declaring any Barrage project as a National Project;

(b) the names of projects declared as National projects by the Government during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the names of projects for whom the demand of declaring them as National projects is pending; and

(d) the time by which those projects are likely to be declared as National projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). It was proposed to categorise River Valley Projects including Barrage Projects falling under the following criteria as nationally important projects :-

(i) Projects which are either international or having international aspects;

(ii) Any State Project or projects having inter-State aspects with irrigation potential above 1 lakh hectares;

(iii) Projects of national importance from other angles.

However, no project in irrigation sector has been declared as 'National Project'.

(c) and (d). Do not arise

Job Oriented Education

1245. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the guidelines issued to State Governments to lay much emphasis on job oriented education; and

(b) the steps taken to assist the State Governments to popularise and expand the scope of vocational courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) No Sir. However, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education was launched in February, 1988 with the primary objective to enhance individual empolyability.

(b) For popularisation of Vocational Education Programme following steps have been taken :-

- several documents have been prepared and issued particularly for development of curriculum, instructional material, school industry linkages, training of teachers, vocational surveys etc.
- folders, posters, vocational films developed.
- publication of Vocational Education Bulletin.
- organisation of exhibition of material produced by students.

For expanding the scope of vocational courses :-

- Joint Council for Vocational Education has been set up at national level for providing guidance to the programme.
- A Central Institute of Vocational Education has been set up to provide technical and academic support.
- 60 Vocational courses have been covered under Apprenticeship Act.
- State Govts/UTs have been asked to develop school Industry linkages.

Loss of Crops and Property by Flood

1246. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total annual loss to crops and property due to flood havocs;

(b) the steps being taken to control the flood damages;

(c) the steps taken to preserve the water by proper utilisation of the rainy water for irrigation.

(d) whether the project of linking of rivers is being revived for better water management, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Annual average loss to crop and property due to floods based on data from 1953 to 1994 is estimated at about Rs. 982 crores.

(b) The various flood management measures such as embankments, drainage channels, town protection works, raising of villages, and anti erosion schemes undertaken through successive five year plans have provided a reasonable degree of protection to an area of 14.4 million ha. (against a flood prone area of 40 million ha. as assessed by RBA). Till March 1995, about Rs. 4159 crores have been spent on flood management works. The Central Government is operating 157 flood forecasting stations covering 62 river basins which are providing timely flood forecasting services to the State Government for issuing warnings and organising rescue & relief operations.

(c) In the Five Year Plans emphasis was placed on creation of storages across rivers in order to utilise the